

Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank
427 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1415

HABS

PA,

51-PHILA,

377-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' BANK		PA-1415
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
427 Chestnut Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
1854-55	John M. Gries, architect; John Rice, builder; Wm. Struthers, marble mason; Robt. Wood, iron wor	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
The Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, at that time the largest in the city, erected the first of the bank row structures in 1854. The building has recently been the home of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum (1965-1974). Philadelphia National Bank bought the building in 1917 and still owns it.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
Italianate style		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
Front facade is of marble. The rest of the building (excluding addition) is of brick.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
Approx. 55' (five-bay front) X 45'		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
Arched windows. Two ground floor window arches have lion heads. All second floor window hoods have ram heads. Pilasters at ground floor. "Heavy" cornice in typical Italianate fashion. The panel on the center of the parapet shows an anvil and a plow, which are representative symbols of the farmer and mechanic (con't. on page 2)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
Originally there was a central corridor with flanking offices and a rear three-story banking room with a skylight.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
Interior altered 1873. Turn-of-the century alterations: lavatory addition, partitions, openings, and basement enlargement.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
See page 3 for an early view of the building. For further architectural description, the Philadelphia Historical Commission, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa., has 1855 insurance survey for this building. The Society also has <u>Baxter's Business Directory</u> (con't. on p. 2)		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
Some of this information is based on Richard Webster's <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> , published in 1976 by Temple University Press.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION		DATE
Susan McCown, arch. historian, Historic American Bldg. Survey		Feb. 23, 1984

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page one):

The iron door is original and had a lion head knocker.

OTHER INFORMATION (continued from page one):

which shows the Bank Row (the building is included in this view).

19th century photograph of the building



Courtesy of City Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.
Photo No. 25, Vol. 7, Philadelphia Miscellaneous Views.
Photographic Unit, City Hall.